ABSTRACT

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is a network element in an optical communications network. The network element includes a data collection application program interface (API) for collecting topology information in a first format. A transport network bridge is in communication with the data collection API. The transport network bridge receives a request for network topology information from a client. The request is in a second format different than the first format. The transport network bridge obtains the requested network topology information from the data collection API, converts the requested network topology information into the second format and provides the converted network topology information to the client. Alternate embodiments include a method for communicating topology information in an optical communications network.

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